

Bay Counties nor the Northern California section, but of the whole State and of every physician in the State. If each individual member will do his best, this can easily be done; but if he keeps his ideas and his "kicks" to himself, or confides them only to his own circle of friends, the JOURNAL cannot know of, or profit by them. The editor's position is by no means an easy one, and he needs all the help that can be given him. If the County Societies will not see to it that reports of their meetings are sent in, then they should not blame the JOURNAL nor the editor for failing to publish such reports. Each member must take to himself some of the responsibility, and some of the credit or blame.

A year's work under its new Constitution and By-laws has shown where certain changes are imperatively necessary to the proper and successful carrying out of the Society's work in harmony with the American Medical Association. The existence of "members at large" is in conflict with the spirit, if not, indeed, with the law of the A. M. A., and all such "members at large" should be obliged to join their County Societies. It is the County Society that is the fundamental unit of organization—properly so—and all licensed and reputable physicians should belong to this fundamental organization. Anything other than this would be as inconsistent as permitting a man becoming a member of the Knights Templars without being a member of a "blue lodge." The illustration cited is further apropos, for the whole plan of reorganization of the A. M. A. is merely an adoption of the general fraternal society plan. Therefore, we would say to all members at large, "Join your County Society, or the County Society nearest to your home, if there is none in your own county."

There is, or was a short time ago, at least one man in the world who believed, and strenuously maintained in argument, that the world is flat and not round. He was really not so great an ignoramus as one would at first think, for he simply was an extreme type of a large class which it is difficult to educate. It would seem, that, no matter what strides preventive medicine may make, and no matter what discoveries are made in the line of disease origin and transmission, there are always enough people who think the world is flat, to upset the work of scientific progress in sanitation and life conservation. A terrible illustration has recently been furnished by Ithaca, New York, an illustration in which each sentence was punctuated with a death. At Ithaca, and

almost always, in fact, where such tragedies occur, we find ignorance and criminal carelessness going hand in hand in the seductive pursuit of money. Unfortunately, it is seldom or never either the ignorant or the criminals who suffer; the innocent pay the price of death invariably exacted.

A notable departure from the classical type of annual addresses occurred at the 1903 meeting of the State Society at Santa Barbara. The President's address deals largely with medical legislation and its various bearings, and is not a long statement of historical episodes. The Address on Medicine deals with a single class of diseases or infections, and covers the ground very fully and rationally. The Address on Surgery, like the other, is also confined to a single subject, which is fully treated. The tendency to treat of a single subject or class, in annual addresses, is certainly a welcome innovation; but the personal opinion or attitude of the individual writer of the address should be as little in evidence as possible. Such addresses are in the nature of editorial utterances and should not be confined to the opinions of a single individual. This is not a criticism of this year's addresses, but simply calls attention to a possible danger.

The fact to which attention is called in the Address on Medicine, read at the Santa Barbara meeting of the Society, and printed elsewhere in the JOURNAL, that the variety of the clinical material of the Pacific Coast has increased, and probably will increase, is decidedly more important than many will, at first glance, believe. Numerous oriental diseases have already appeared, and one or two have attracted considerable attention. Most of these oriental diseases have received comparatively little study or attention at the hands of American physicians, and consequently many such cases are not recognized when they first appear in our country. It certainly is exceedingly important that the physicians of the Pacific Coast should devote some time and study to the diseases of the Orient that are liable to be introduced through our developing trade with the Far East.

The absurdity of the situation that would result from an attempt to provide absolutely exclusive legislation against tuberculosis entering the State is well and clearly illustrated in a paper by Dr. Bridge, read at the State Society's recent session. It is not by restrictive and sumptuary legislation that this and numerous other urgent questions may

#### SANTA BARBARA ADDRESSES.

#### NEW CLINICAL COAST MATERIAL.

#### RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION.

be settled. Education, practical to the extreme, and if necessary compulsive, through State or city boards of health, can alone serve to remedy those evils which are confronting the medical profession of the country.

### COMMUNICATION.

(The following letter, relative to the publication of a monthly journal, will, we believe, interest our readers in that it presents the views of one who, from his former position as editor of a State journal, and who has been active in Association work for some time, is fully competent to speak from experience.—ED.)

#### A MONTHLY JOURNAL VERSUS A YEARLY VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS.

*To the Editor of the Journal.*—From time to time the question as to the real value of a monthly journal, owned by a State Society, is seriously considered, and varied objections are made toward its continuance. The objections are as follows:

First, the expense; second, its naturally limited field of publication; third, competing with established journals, and fourth, its doubtful utility as a means of inter-communication between members.

*Expense.*—A yearly bound volume of the transactions is almost as expensive as twelve numbers sent monthly. The bound volume is all solid matter, and there is no income. The monthly journals contain ethical advertisements which materially reduce the cost of publication, and will ultimately prove a source of revenue.

*Limited Field of Publication.*—Writers of repute are naturally averse to having their work "buried" in a journal of limited circulation, and many journals are desirous of publishing their articles. In such cases I arranged, during my editorship of the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, to have important articles published in the journal selected by the authors, and in the *State Journal*, simultaneously.

Properly conducted State journals do not compete with other journals, in that the former are reserved solely for such papers as are read in State and county associations.

*As a means of intercommunication* between members, conveying records of official action, suggestions as to new work, and constantly keeping the advantage of membership before the profession, a monthly journal is of incalculable value. This we have demonstrated over and over again. For instance, in former years, through the liberality of committees on publication, many more volumes of the yearly transactions were ordered than were necessary, and there were on hand recently over 2,000 such books, on which the storage expense was quite large. At the request of the treasurer, I inserted a notice that full sets of eighteen volumes each would be given to members who would pay freight charges. The responses were prompt and gratifying, and a large number of these volumes were placed where they would be appreciated, and our end attained. News items from time to time, relative to fellow members, are eagerly read. Association news is always interesting, and editorials on the art as well as the science of medicine, find sympathetic readers. Altogether, then, the value of a monthly journal is incontestible, and those who have given this manner of presenting official news of the State organization a fair trial would never go back to old methods.

EMIL MAYER.

New York, March 11, 1903.

#### VETO MESSAGE OF OSTEOPATH BILL BY GOVERNOR HEBER M. WELLS, - OF UTAH, MARCH 16, 1903.

*To the Senate:*

I herewith return, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 131, entitled, "An act declaring the practice of osteopathy not to be the practice of medicine and surgery, within the meaning of Title 52, Revised Statutes of Utah, 1898, and regulating the practice of osteopathy in the State of Utah."

The saving of human life, whether by means of looking to the prevention of disease, or by means calculated to cure disease already established, will be admitted without question to be the proper climax of professional ambition, as well as the highest humanitarian desire of legislative enactment. In both these directions, the State of Utah, by vigorous sanitary laws, and by strict requirements as to the quality of medical practitioners, stands well in the forefront of enlightened and progressive commonwealths.

Only through conviction should we venture to weaken in any degree these safeguards, which experience and observation have proven to be beneficent and satisfactory.

#### PRACTICE IN MEDICINE.

Whatever the term or nature of the tenets of the particular school which this bill aims to recognize, its practice must, it seems to me, be considered a branch of the science of medicine. After all, the physician, of whatever school or designation, has to deal with the same physiology, the same conditions, the same laws of cause and effect, in health and disease. All practitioners may not have the same knowledge and the same skill, yet our statutes have wisely provided, as a matter of public policy and protection, that a certain amount of skilled knowledge all of them must have.

It requires considerable honesty in any practitioner to admit that a case in hand is beyond his powers. His training may be limited, his pretensions modest; but the consequence of his weakness in refusing to concede it are equally dangerous. The natural treatment of any physical disorder is necessarily determined by a diagnosis of a case—a preliminary of first and absolute importance. To do the wrong thing by performing dangerous manipulations, or to do nothing at all—either of which courses is easily open to the unskilled—may be equally fatal. The peril is not lessened if the physician, perhaps by happy accident or coincidence, has discovered the true condition.

#### HUMAN LIFE PRECIOUS.

The foregoing suggests that the treatment of disease should not be permitted to be a matter of mere experiment; and, inasmuch as the authority to practice presupposed an acquaintance with the science, as recognized by all the regular